

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /051 W

----- 006738

R 241243Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8608

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7679

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: SZLACHCIC FINISHED

REF: WARSAW A-411, 11/24/75

1. THE NUMEROUS RECENT INDICATIONS THAT THE STAR OF POLITBIURO MEMBER FRANCISZEK SZLACHCIC, ERSTWHILE RIVAL TO FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK, WAS PLUMMETING ARE CONFIRMED BY HIS FAILURE TO BE SELECTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE SEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS OPENING DECEMBER 8. EVEN MFA OFFICIALS HAVE OPENLY TOLD US THAT SZLACHCIC'S REMOVAL FROM THE POLITBIURO IS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED. SINCE SZLACHCIC PROBABLY WILL NOT EVEN ATTEND THE CONGRESS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT HAS ENDED.

2. ACCORDING TO REASONABLY RELIABLE INFORMATION RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 21, SZLACHCIC TRIED TO ORGANIZE A "COUP" AGAINST GIEREK AMONG DISAFFECTED PARTY AND/OR SECURITY ELEMENTS IN KRAKOW. THIS EFFORT APPARENTLY BEGAN SOMETIME LAST SEPTEMBER. TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS TIPPED OFF A FEW WEEKS LATER. THE TIP REPORTEDLY CAME FROM THE KRAKOW VICE COMMANDANT OF MILITIA RESPONSIBLE
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FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, SZLACHCIC'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.

3. ALTHOUGH DETAILS ARE STILL NOT CLEAR, GIEREK SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED QUIETLY TO ISOLATE SZLACHCIC. AMONG OTHER THINGS, OUR SOURCE REMARKED THAT AN INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAD TOLD HIM THAT SZLACHCIC'S APPOINTMENT WITH INDIAN TRADE MINISTER CHATTOPADYAHA, VISITING HERE IN MID-NOVEMBER, HAD BEEN ABRUPTLY CANCELLED, WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT SZLACHCIC WOULD BE ABROAD. ADDITIONALLY, SZLACHCIC REPORTEDLY DID NOT ACCUPY HIS NORMAL POSITION WITH THE POLITBIURO DURING THE NINETEENTH PLENUM ON NOVEMBER 20 AND MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT ALL. HE WAS NOT VISIBLE ON TELEVISION OR IN NEWSPAPER PICTURES OF THE PLENUM. FINALLY, OUR SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT SZLACHCIC WAS NOT CHOSEN AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS IN THE RECENTLY COMPLETED ROUND OF PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL-REPORTING CONFERENCES.

4. OUR SOURCE SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION POSITIVELY LINKING SZLACHCIC OR OTHER NATIONALISTS TO THE MYSTERIOUS FIRES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. HE PERSONALLY IS NOT YET CONVINCED THAT THE FIRES WERE EVEN INTENTIONAL. HOWEVER, HE DOES ACCEPT THE REPORT ABOUT SZLACHCIC'S APPARENTLY INEPT EFFORT TO STIR THINGS UP IN KRAKOW, AND HE BELIEVES THAT SZLACHCIC IS NOW FINISHED.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTHING TO CORROBORATE THIS REPORT, BUT THE SOURCE HAS BEEN RELIABLE. BECAUSE OF ITS TIMING AND NATURE, THE REPORT FITS IN WITH THE VAGUE STORIES OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO GIEREK THAT WE HEARD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, AND IT GOES FAR TO EXPLAIN THE RECENTLY MOUNTING INDICATIONS OF SZLACHCIC'S DECLINE. IT IS ALSO FEASIBLE THAT SZLACHCIC WOULD HAVE SOUGHT SYMPATHIZERS IN KRAKOW, SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP EMANATING FROM THAT AREA. IN ANY CASE, THIS REPORT LENDS FURTHER SUBSTANCE TO OUR ANALYSIS IN REFAIR POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT NOVMEBER 24. THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT SZLACHCIC HAS BEEN QUIETLY REMOVED FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE AND THAT GIEREK HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS DOMINANCE OF THE PARTY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL COMMITTEE, POLITICAL LEADERS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WARSAW07679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750408-1019
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751117/aaaaaoyz.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 WARSAW A-411
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SZLACHCIC FINISHED
TAGS: PINT, PL, (SZLACHCIC, FRANCISZEK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006